

REMARKS

In the above-identified Office Action all of the claims were rejected as being anticipated by the cited Aikawa patent. By this response, however, Claims 2, 3, and 5-8 have been cancelled, independent Claims 1 and 4 have been amended and new Claim 9 has been added. In this regard, it is believed that all of the claims as now presented are allowable over the cited prior art.

In particular, the amendments to Claims 1 and 4 are supported by Figs. 1 and 4, and by the disclosure of the Specification related thereto. In this regard, the configurations of amended Claims 1 and 4 can realize advantageous effects in that the problem of the influence of reflective illumination of the specular reflection light can be avoided (hereinafter referred to as Effect A). (See page 13, line 17 to page 14, line 2 and page 19, lines 2-10 of the Specification.)

Referring to the cited prior art, the Aikawa patent does not disclose that “the first and second light source portions are disposed asymmetrically with respect to the optical axis of said image forming means in a sub-scanning cross-sectional plane so that a specular reflection light having been emitted from the first light source portion and reflected on the original is not incident on the second light source portion, and a specular reflection light having been emitted from the second light source portion and reflected on the original is not incident on the first light source portion”. These claimed features of Claim 1 of the present invention will be referred to herein as feature 1. Moreover, the Aikawa patent also fails to disclose “the first and second reflective portions are disposed asymmetrically with respect to the optical axis of said image forming means in a sub-scanning cross-sectional plane so that a specular reflection light having emitted from the first light source portion and reflected on the original is not incident on the

second reflective portion and a specular reflection light having emitted from the second light source portion and reflected on the original is not incident on the first reflective portion”. These features of amended Claim 4, of the present invention will be referred to as feature 2.

Further in this regard, Aikawa discloses, in Fig. 3, a plurality of depressions 302, 303 arranged around light emission portions 301 that are shaped differently with respect to the center axis (see column 4, line 47 to column 5, line 8). Considering the depression as the reflective portion of the present invention, it can be said that the two depressions are disposed asymmetrically with respect to the center axis. However, in Aikawa it is not clear whether the two light emission portions are disposed asymmetrically with respect to the center axis or not. However, to overcome any doubt, Claim 1 has been amended to require feature 1 as described above. Also, it is noted that feature 1, as described above is not disclosed in column 6, lines 56-62 of Aikawa as referred to in the Office Action. Similarly feature 2 of Claim 4 is not disclosed in column 1, lines 34-47 of Aikawa as referred to in the Office Action.

Applicant notes also that Aikawa does not disclose the problem to be solved by the present invention concerning “the specular reflection light reflected toward the light source.” That is, the optical system disclosed in Aikawa is not an optical system in which the specular reflection light from the film 622, corresponding to the original of the present invention returns the light source 601. (See Fig. 1 of Aikawa) Accordingly, the scanning device disclosed in Aikawa is one in which the problem to be solved by the present invention concerning “the specular reflection light reflected toward the light source” does not arise.

For these various reasons it is believed that amended independent Claims 1 and 4, and new dependent Claim 9 are allowable, wherefore the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is

solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3939.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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